

My comment on this matter is this:

At present the code testing is exactly the opposite of what the pro code amateurs are asking for. For the code testing to be fair every amateur should be required to retake a code test every year or two. This would insure that newcomers to amateur radio were not being unfairly singled out to prove their code ability while it would only assume that the rest of the amateur population remained fluent in code. If code is as important as we are lead to believe then annual code testing should be mandatory. It goes without saying that there are a large number of amateurs that have previously pass the code requirement that could not pass a code test today. Why should code requirement be so important when you upgrade and then be perfectly acceptable for your skills to lapse after that? I am aware that there are not enough examiners to handle this amount of retesting but why should that be used to single out one group of amateurs over another one. Before the argument was, that it was required by international treaty. Now after WRC 2003 this is no longer the case. So using the reasoning that it is absolutely essential to know morse code is totally without merit if it is applied to only one segment of the amateur community. If we keep the requirement in its present form it is totally discriminating and serves only one group while descriminating against all the others. I feel we should either drop the code entirely or require annual or biannual retesting of all amateurs.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this matter.

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